

"Investing in our children's education today will lay a solid foundation for future prosperity in south Louisiana," said Rep. Melancon. **"This influx in education funding from the Recovery Act will help schools stretch their budgets and avoid teacher lay-offs during the economic slowdown. The extra dollars will also ensure that our most vulnerable students -- those with disabilities or from low-income families -- will not be left behind when schools tighten their budgets."**

Rep. Melancon continued, **"I look forward to the state stabilization funding making its way through the pipeline to our local schools, so communities can begin modernizing schools and education administrators can bridge their budget gaps. I am also pleased the funding comes with strict guidelines on transparency and accountability, helping to ensure that taxpayer dollars are used effectively to improve education in the classroom."**

The funding released today was authorized by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, also known as the economic stimulus bill. Rep. Melancon was the only Louisiana member of the House of Representatives to vote in support of the bill. Nationwide, a total of \$11.4 billion in Recovery Act funding was released today under the Title I, IDEA, Vocational Rehabilitation and Independent Living programs.

Today's announced funding is the first of two equal installments of direct funding for Title I and IDEA programs that school districts will receive under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act; the second installment of funds will be released to districts in the fall of this year.

IDEA is the major federal program that provides funding for special education and related services to students with disabilities. The Title I program provides funds to low-income school districts that are in even greater need during the economic downturn.

The funds appropriated through the Recovery Plan are allocated through the previously defined IDEA and Title I formulas. Title I funding will go straight to school districts, while IDEA funding goes to the state first by formula, and then the state allocates the money to districts.

See attached chart for a district-by-district breakdown of funding for the Third Congressional District, although please note that the IDEA breakdowns are estimates only until the state determines final grant allocations. Additional breakdowns can be found by clicking on the links at the bottom of this release.

State Stabilization Fund Will Prevent Cuts to Education

In addition to the Title I and IDEA investments, the economic recovery plan also created a state stabilization fund to help stabilize state and local budgets and restore harmful cuts to education. Among other purposes, the funding can be used to modernize school facilities.

Today, states can start applying for the first installment of the state stabilization funding.

Funds in the first round will be released within two weeks of an application's approval. A second round of stabilization funds will be released later in the year. A third round of funding, the Race to the Top competitive grant program, will reward states that have made the most progress on reforms.

According to estimates provided by the U.S. Department of Education, Louisiana is could receive an estimated \$708,548,266 in state stabilization funds, which the state will then allocate to local school districts.

To help clear up recent confusion over the extent to which state governments can decide how local districts and colleges use state stabilization funding, today the Obama administration also issued guidelines to clarify how the funding must be used. The guidelines confirm that, while states allocate the funds, local school districts and colleges and universities should decide how to use this emergency aid, not the state government.

The guidelines also reaffirmed that state stabilization funds should be used for three purposes: to backfill harmful cuts to k12 and higher education, to stave off teacher layoffs, and to modernize school facilities - which could create new jobs.

The guidelines require states to report the number of jobs saved through Recovery Act funding, the amount of state and local tax increases averted, and how funds are used. It further requires that the bulk of the federal dollars be spent on education.

Later this year, \$5 billion in competitive grants from the "Race to the Top" fund will be awarded to states that are most aggressively pursuing reforms. In order to ensure that Recovery Act funds are driving classroom improvements, states competing for Race to the Top funds will be judged on how well they are using the first round of stabilization and Title I funds to advance education reforms.

[Click here](#) to download the Department of Education's state-level data, including the State Stabilization Fund, Title I and IDEA

[Click here](#) to download the Department of Education's estimates of school district level allocations for Title I funding (Approximately half of these funds will be distributed TODAY; the second installment is expected later this fall.)

[Click here](#) to download school district level allocations for IDEA funding, as calculated by the Congressional Research Service on February 13, 2009 (Approximately half of these funds will be distributed TODAY; the second installment is expected later this fall.)

To view the guidance issued by the Department of Education for the use of Title I funding, [click here](#)

LOCAL EDUCATION AGENCY (LEA)	Title I funds released today	Title I funds to be released in fall	TOTAL Title I Grants for this year	IDEA funds released today	IDEA funds to be released in fall	TOTAL IDEA grants	Total funding released today
Ascension Parish School Board	\$ 1,087,029	\$ 1,880,500	\$ 2,174,059	\$ 1,880,500	\$ 1,880,500	\$ 3,761,000	\$ 43,247,277
Assumption Parish School Board	\$ 388,238	\$ 498,500	\$ 776,477	\$ 498,500	\$ 498,500	\$ 997,000	\$ 43,247,277
Iberia Parish School Board	\$ 1,429,973	\$ 1,732,000	\$ 2,859,946	\$ 1,732,000	\$ 1,732,000	\$ 3,464,000	\$ 43,247,277
Jefferson Parish School Board	\$ 9,303,235	\$ 8,614,000	\$ 18,606,470	\$ 8,614,000	\$ 8,614,000	\$ 17,228,000	\$ 43,247,277
Lafourche Parish School Board	\$ 1,427,940	\$ 1,837,500	\$ 2,855,880	\$ 1,837,500	\$ 1,837,500	\$ 3,675,000	\$ 43,247,277
Plaquemines Parish School Board	\$ 157,185	\$ 618,000	\$ 314,370	\$ 618,000	\$ 618,000	\$ 1,236,000	\$ 43,247,277
St. Bernard Parish School Board	\$ 282,092	\$ 1,240,500	\$ 564,184	\$ 1,240,500	\$ 1,240,500	\$ 2,481,000	\$ 43,247,277
St. Charles Parish School Board	\$ 360,113	\$ 1,095,000	\$ 720,226	\$ 1,095,000	\$ 1,095,000	\$ 2,190,000	\$ 43,247,277
St. James Parish School Board	\$ 227,258	\$ 456,000	\$ 454,516	\$ 456,000	\$ 456,000	\$ 912,000	\$ 43,247,277
St. John Parish School Board	\$ 680,432	\$ 1,090,000	\$ 1,360,865	\$ 1,090,000	\$ 1,090,000	\$ 2,180,000	\$ 43,247,277
St. Martin Parish School Board	\$ 755,648	\$ 1,101,500	\$ 1,511,295	\$ 1,101,500	\$ 1,101,500	\$ 2,203,000	\$ 43,247,277
St. Mary Parish School Board	\$ 1,262,614	\$ 1,187,000	\$ 2,525,228	\$ 1,187,000	\$ 1,187,000	\$ 2,374,000	\$ 43,247,277
Terrebonne Parish School Board	\$ 2,210,019	\$ 2,325,000	\$ 4,420,039	\$ 2,325,000	\$ 2,325,000	\$ 4,650,000	\$ 43,247,277
Total for School Districts in 3rd Congressional District	\$ 19,571,777	\$ 23,675,500	\$ 39,143,554	\$ 23,675,500	\$ 23,675,500	\$ 47,351,000	\$ 43,247,277
Total funding released today	\$ 43,247,277						

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